

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SCCT-01 /077 W

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P R 281245Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3124

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWIAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 2-28-76

TAGS: PFOR PLO EG SY XF

SUBJECT: PLO REACTION TO REPORTED EGYPTIAN REFUSAL TO RECEIVE
PLO DELEGATION

REF: BEIRUT 2677

1. DEPT WILL HAVE NOTED REPORTS FROM CAIRO RE PRES SADAT'S
ADVERSE REACTION TO FEB 26 PLO EX COMM STATEMENT (REFTEL)
OPPOSING FURTHER EGYPTIAN COOPERATION WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
EFFORTS TO FORGE NEW SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. (FONMIN FAHMI
REPORTEDLY HAD INFORMED PLO REPS IN CAIRO FEB 27 THAT GOE WOULD
REFUSE RECEIVE PLO DELEGATION PLANNING VISIT CAIRO SHORTLY
UNLESS IT WAS COMPOSED OF ALL MEMBERS OF PLO EX COMM, INCLUDING
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YASIR 'ARAFAT.) SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THIS NEWS BECAME KNOWN HER,

PLO POLITICAL CHIEF FAROUQ QADDUMI PUBLICLY EXPRESSED REGRET OVER SADAT'S ATTITUDE, SAID EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE "PATIENT", AND ANNOUNCED THAT PLO HAD DECIDED POSTPONE ANY FURTHER "DIALOGUE" WITH GOE UNTIL "MORE PROPITIOUS CLIMATE" EXISTS. PLO (Wafa) NEWS AGENCY SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED THAT PLO IS RECALLING ITS CAIRO REPS, SAID KAMAL AND RIBHI AWAD, FOR "CONSULTATIONS".

2. WE NOTE ALSO FEB 28 REPORT IN BEIRUT'S FRENCH-LANGUAGE J'ORIENT-LE JOUR WHICH QUOTED SYRIAN INFOMIN ISKANDAR AS SAYING (IN SOMMEWHAT GUARDED TERMS) THAT IF EGYPT CONCLUDES SEPARATE ACCORD WITH ISRAEL IN SINAI, SARG WOULD NOT ONLY CEASE TO COOPERATE WITH KISSINGER APPROACH BUT ALSO BOYCOTT GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. COMMENT: LOCAL OBSERVERS TEND TO REGARD ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS AS SIGNS THAT SADAT IS IN DANGER OF LOSING HIS PALESTINIAN AND SYRIAN "COVER" AND TO CONCLUDE THAT "OPEN BREACH" WHICH HAS OCCURED IN EGYPTIAN-PLO RELATIONS WILL REDUCE HIS ROOM FOR MANEUVER IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SECRETARY AND ISRAELIS. WE NOT SO SURE ABOUT LATTER POINT, ALTHOUGH WE ARE CERTAIN THAT PLO LEADERSHIP INTENDS TO USE CURRENT "CRISIS" WITH EGYPT AS ANOTHER MEANS OF BRINGING MORE PRESSURE TO BEARR ON SADAT-- JUST AS IT ATTEMPTED TO DO DURING LAST SUMMER'S PLO-EGYPTIAN "CRISIS" PRIOR TO RABAT SUMMIT.
HOUGHTON

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